

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

UNCLAS STATE 084316

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OEXC, KS

SUBJECT: TAX STATUS BINATIONAL COMMISSIONS

REF: SEOUL 2490

1. UNDER ART. 1 OF AGREEMENT OF JUNE 18, 1963, AS AMENDED, STATUS OF COMMISSION VEHICLES "SHALL BE REGARDED.....AS PROPERTY OF A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT" AND THUS ENTITLED TO EXEMPTION OF GASOLINE TAX, PROVIDED VEHICLES BEING USED ON COMMISSION BUSINESS AND NOT BY GRANTEES FOR PERSONAL USE.

2. UNDER ART. 9, GRANTEES WOULD HAVE SAME ENTITLEMENT TO PRIVILEGES AND EXEMPTIONS THAT KOREANS HAVE IN THE U.S. UNDER SIMILAR EXCHANGE PROGRAMS AND WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE ENTITLED TO TAX EXEMPTION ON HEATING OIL.

3. FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARISE: IS PROBLEM OF OIL TAX ON GRANTEE HOUSING ONLY FOR GRANTEES RESIDING IN FULBRIGHT HOUSE, ONLY FOR THOSE RESIDING ELSEWHERE OR FOR ALL? HOW LONG HAVE THESE EXEMPTIONS BEEN IN EFFECT AND WHAT IS HISTORY BEHIND THEM?

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4. DEPT KNOWS OF NO OTHER SITUATION WHERE FULBRIGHTERS

ENTITLED TO TAX EXEMPTIONS ON HEATING OIL, OR OTHER SALES
TAXES, BUT FULBRIGHT HOUSE IN SEOUL IS UNIQUE SITUATION.
CERTAINLY COMMISSION'S OWN SPACE IN BUILDING SHOULD BE
EXEMPT, BUT GRANTEE APARTMENTS COULD BE SUBJECT AND
SYSTEM FOR DETERMINING ACTUAL USAGE OF FULBRIGHT HOUSE
SPACE MAY HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT IF NOT ALREADY IN
EFFECT. KISSINGER

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